

7774.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON D. C., April 30, 1886.

Mr. J. C. Booth,
U. S. Mint,
Phila., Pa.

Bear Sir:

In response to your favor of the 28th inst., I hasten to assure you that the reasons for your delay in preparing a sketch of your geologic survey in Delaware would have been quite sufficient even if our own work had thereby been retarded; but since our work has been delayed by other causes, yours has not affected us.

It would seem from your letter that you misapprehend the scope of the proposed History. The work is designed primarily to be a history of scientific institutions, and to deal with the administration thereof and the prosecution of work under them, and not a history of scientific opinion and the results of surveys, excepting so far as these results are definite and tangible and may be succinctly described, as specified under the fifth category of questions enumerated in the circular enclosed to you in my last letter. Accordingly, such a sketch of your survey in

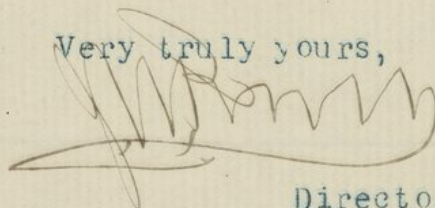
Delaware, 1837-40, as is suggested by the circular, together with any information in your possession relating to any preceding and subsequent legislation designed to promote scientific investigation of the state, will serve our purpose as well as a more elaborate memoir. It is however particularly desirable that special attention should be given to the various questions of the circular, especially those relating to administration and cost.

Permit me to express my appreciation of your kindness in co-operating in this important work despite adverse circumstances. Nothing has gratified me more since the collection of material for the History began, than the readiness with which officers of the various scientific surveys, past and present, have responded to my appeals for assistance; and no contributor has given more careful and intelligent thought to the subject than yourself.

Believe me to remain,

Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. C. B.', written over a horizontal line.

Director.